REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-16 are currently pending. Claims 1, 8, and 10 have been amended. New claims 11-16 have been added to more fully describe the present invention.

Drawings

Fig. 1 has been amended as requested by the Examiner. Figures 1-4 have been formalized. Replacement sheets including Figs. 1-4 are attached. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests approval of the proposed drawing change and that the drawing objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102(e)

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,765,705 to Ouchi. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite "a second optically refractive element operative to collimate the first optical signal and the second optical signal." Support for this claim amendment can be found in figure 2. (See *Vas-Cath, Inc. v. Mahurkar*, 19 USPQ2d 1111, 1118 (Fed. Cir. 1991), (drawings alone may satisfy written description requirements of § 112)).

Claim 1 recites "a first optically refractive element operative to refract the optical beam to produce an optical spectrum" and "a second optically refractive element operative to collimate the first optical signal and the second optical signal" among other elements. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited reference does not teach or suggest at least these claim elements.

Embodiments of the present invention provide a method and apparatus "for controlling color separation wherein an optical spectrum is separated into optical wavelength ranges and wherein the optical signals of the separated wavelength ranges are further separated temporally." (Specification at paragraph 6). As illustrated in figure 2, the two prisms serve to generate an optical spectrum and collimate the train of optical pulses, respectively. Selection mechanism 50 operates to spectrally and temporally separate the optical pulses.

Ouchi discusses a "technology for beaming a plurality of light colors onto different light pipe element locations using a rotating multisurface element." (Ouchi at col. 1,

lines 15-17.) As illustrated in figure 1, light emitted by a light source 1 is separated into three beams of light (red, green, and blue) by reflection off of three dichroic mirrors 7A, 7B, and 7C, respectively, forming a "dichroic mirror group." (Ouchi at col. 2, lines 43-60). Thus, Ouchi appears to achieve spectral separation through the use of reflective dichroic mirrors. "The red light, green light and blue light respectively pass through the third collimator lens 5c, and irradiate different locations on the respective reflecting rotating polygonal mirrors 43, and are reflected from the reflecting rotating polygonal mirrors 43." (Ouchi at col. 2, lines 61-65).

Thus, among other shortcomings, Ouchi fails to teach or suggest the use of "a second optically refractive element operative to collimate the first optical signal and the second optical signal" in the manner claimed. The Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary defines refraction as "deflection from a straight path undergone by a light ray or energy wave in passing obliquely from one medium (as air) into another (as glass) in which its velocity is different." Nowhere does Ouchi teach the deflection of light from a straight path through refraction, but only through reflection. That is, reflection taught by Ouchi is not refraction in the manner claimed.

The Applicant respectfully submits that neither the dichroic mirror group (7A, 7B, and 7C) nor the reflecting rotating polygonal mirrors (43) are optically refractive elements. On the contrary, Ouchi specifically refers to these optical elements as "reflecting" beams of red, green, and blue light, which are then "reflected from one surface of the reflecting rotating multisurface element 43." (Ouchi at col. 2, lines 57-60 and col. 3, lines 18-20). Therefore, because Ouchi fails to teach or suggest at least "a second optically refractive element operative to collimate the first optical signal and the second optical signal," claim 1 is in a condition for allowance.

Claims 2-4, which depend from claim 1, are in a condition for allowance, for at least the reasons discussed in relation to claim 1, as well as for the additional limitations they recite.

Claim 5 recites, "a second optically dispersive element, wherein the plurality of optical signals are temporally separated" among other elements. As discussed in relation to claim 1, element 43 as shown in Ouchi, is not an optically dispersive element, as recited by claim

5, but merely a "reflecting rotating multisurface element 43." (Ouchi at col. 3, lines 19-20). For at least these reasons, claim 5 is in a condition for allowance.

Claims 6-7, which depend from claim 5, are in a condition for allowance, for at least the reasons discussed in relation to claim 5, as well as for the additional limitations they recite.

Claim 8 recites, "passing the plurality of sub-beams through a second spectral dispersion element" among other elements. As discussed in relation to claims 1 and 5, element 43 as shown in Ouchi, is not a spectral dispersion element, as recited by claim 8, but merely a "reflecting rotating multisurface element 43." (Ouchi at col. 3, lines 19-20). For at least these reasons, claim 8 is in a condition for allowance.

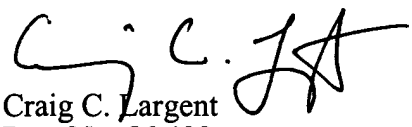
Claims 9-10, which depend from claim 8, are in a condition for allowance, for at least the reasons discussed in relation to claim 8, as well as for the additional limitations they recite.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



Craig C. Largent
Reg. No. 56,400

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400 / Fax: 415-576-0300
Attachments
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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet includes changes to Fig. 1. Also attached are formal drawings for Figs. 1-4. The attached sheets replace the original informal drawings Figs. 1-4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (Figs. 1-4)
Annotated Sheet (Fig. 1) Showing Change

FIG. 1 (PRIOR ART)